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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 67 has been amended in view of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection, which is believed to be overcome by the amendment thereto.

Claims 11-17, 19-35, 37-46 and 68-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,017,172 to Ukegawa et al. (Ukegawa). Claims 18, 36 and 47-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Ukegawa. Applicants respectfully traverses each of these rejections.

It is respectfully submitted that what Ukegawa describes is not a single cutting plate with two clamping troughs, certainly not one wherein a second clamping trough is arranged coaxially with a first clamping trough and wherein "the first clamping trough is arranged so that it is deeper than the second clamping trough and both the first and second clamping troughs are arranged so that they are deeper than said cutting-plate upper side, wherein a trough shape of the second clamping trough forms a surface that is parallel to the cutting plate upper side" as claimed. The statement at page 3 of the Office Action that "therefore the recess (5) extends the depth of the first trough.....cutting plate upper side)" does not appear to describe to the presently claimed invention as suggested by the Examiner.

Since each and every limitation of the claimed invention is not disclosed by Ukegawa, none of the claims are believed to be anticipated or rendered obvious over this patent.

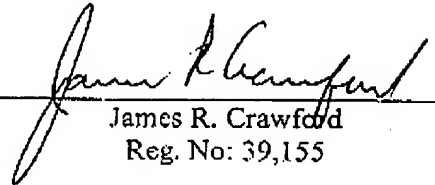
In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any fee associated with this filing from
Deposit Account No. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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